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A METHOD FOR ROUTING INFORMATION OVER A NETWORK

Saleh, Ali; Zadikian, H. Michael; Baghdasarian, Zareh; Parsi, Vahid

CROSS-REFERENCES TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

5 This application is related to Patent Application No. (____ Attorney Ref. No. M-7165 US____), entitled " A CONFIGURABLE NETWORK ROUTER," having A. Saleh, H. M. Zadikian, J. C. Adler, Z. Baghdasarian, and V. Parsi as inventors and filed concurrently herewith. This related application is assigned to Monterey Networks, Inc., the assignee of the present invention, and is hereby incorporated by
10 reference in its entirety.

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

This invention relates to the field of information networks, and more particularly relates to a protocol for configuring routes over a network.

Description of the Related Art

20 Today's networks carry vast amounts of information. High bandwidth applications supported by these networks include streaming video, streaming audio, and large aggregations of voice traffic. In the future, these demands are certain to increase. To meet such demands, an increasingly popular alternative is the use of lightwave communications carried over fiber optic cables. The use of lightwave communications provides several benefits, including high bandwidth, ease of installation, and capacity for future growth.

The synchronous optical network (SONET) protocol is among those protocols employing an optical infrastructure. SONET is a physical transmission vehicle